(vi) The North Eastern Council is also engaged in the development of infrastructure in the Region. Projects entailing an annual outlay of Rs. 450 crore are being implemented by the N. E. Council in 2000-01.

(vii) Special dispensation has been made in respect of the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) by incorporating minor irrigation projects for the North-Eastern States and allowing 25% of the State's share, as against 33% for others, in availing of Central Loan Assistance.

(viii) Diversion to the extent of 20% of the Normal Central Assistance (Plan) is allowed for Non-plan purposes.

Following steps have been taken to optimise benefits of the schemes/projects being implemented in the Region :—

(i) Monitoring of implementation of schemes/programmes in the Region on quarterly basis.

(ii) Involvement of public sector undertakings like NEEPCO, BHEL, Border Road Organisation etc. in implementation of projects, as far as possible.

(iii) Channelizing of Non-Lapsable funds through Central Ministries/ Departments, wherever necessary.

(iv) Sensitising the States on the need of reducing the non-plan expenditure.

Irrigation Projects under RIDF

3055. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any meeting of State Chief Secretaries was called in New Delhi recently by the Planning Commission to discuss the issue of time and cost over runs bogging the irrigation projects under the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) schemes ;

(b) what amount was allocated for irrigation project and road construction by RIDF and actually disbursed during 2000-2001, State-wise ;

(c) whether any "Viable projects" study undertaken in this regard either by RIDF of State level body before allocation of funds ; and

(d) what amount till date has been sanctioned by NABARD for these irrigation projects ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS. (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) A meeting was held on 08-03-2000 under the Chairmanship of Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission with 10 States to review the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) including the issue of time and cost over runs in irrigation projects.

(b) Once an announcement about amount available for RIDF is made in the Union Budget, the State Government pose infrastructure projects for sanction to National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD). There are no sector specific allocation of funds under RIDF. Every year sanction of projects commences from April. This year i.e., 2000-2001 sanction of projects under RIDF VI shall commence from April onwards. Following sanction and on completion of the documentation formalities, the disbursement of funds to State Governments will take place.

(c) Before sanction the projects are appraised by NABARD so as to assess their technical feasibility and financial viability.

(d) NABARD has sanctioned Rs. 5411.26 Crore as on 31-03-2000 under RIDF I to V for implementation of irrigation projects in different States.

Proposal to prepare a NHDR

3056. SHRI ANANTA SETHI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have a proposal to prepare a National Human Development Report (NHDR) ;

(b) whether Planning Commission was entrusted with the task to produce such NHDR ;

(c) if so, the reasons why such report has not been produced by Planning Commission, and

(d) the steps taken in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC